

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. INTRODUCTION

This Manual is provided as a reference tool for those needing information regarding the maritime claims of the world's coastal nations. Its principal purpose is to facilitate the Department of Defense Freedom of Navigation Program. Consequently, in selecting data for inclusion, primary emphasis has been placed on information concerning claims that directly affect navigation and overflight. As resources have permitted, however, limited information has also been included concerning other claims (e.g. exclusive economic zones, continental shelf claims, environmental regulations).

Every effort has been made to ensure that the claims referenced in this Manual are accurate and up-to-date. Users must bear in mind, however, that foreign statutes and decrees change frequently, particularly following the entry into force of the 1982 U.N. Law of the Sea Convention on 16 November 1994. This Manual will be updated by periodic changes, but users are encouraged to consult other materials in conjunction with this Manual when seeking authoritative determination of any particular claim. It is recommended that operational commanders verify the currency of the Manual with their Unified Command when planning sensitive exercises or operations.

Compiling and maintaining an accurate and up-to-date compendium of maritime claims is a sizeable task. For this Manual to remain current, users in the field, particularly the Unified Commands, as well as Defense Attache Offices, must assist in providing new legislation, decrees, or other information that may alter any of the claims described herein. This material should be forwarded to:

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Representative for Ocean Policy Affairs
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This Manual provides a summary sheet listing the maritime claims of each coastal state, including the date of each claim, its source or title, the breadth of the claim where applicable, and notes of significance. Each summary is arranged by headings in the following order:

- I. TERRITORIAL SEA
- II. ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS

- III. CONTIGUOUS ZONE
- IV. CONTINENTAL SHELF
- V. FISHING ZONE/EEZ
- VI. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
- VII. MARITIME BOUNDARIES
- VIII. LOS CONVENTION

All headings for which a particular nation has no known claim have been omitted. For many countries, a summary is followed by textual materials from legislation, agreements, and explanatory comments.

For background on the legal regimes and geographic aspects of maritime claims, refer to Chapter 1 -- Legal Divisions of the Oceans and Airspace, in the Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations, NWP 1-14M (formerly NWP 9 (Rev. A)), MCWP 5-2.1, COMDTPUB P5800.7 (1995).